

As of April 7, 3,471 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 502 were infested host trees and 2,969 were high-risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees this week in areas of Carteret and in the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township.

Currently, 10 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Nine USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, along with 15 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine; to date a total of 7,882 trees have been inspected.

Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City quarantine. As of April 4, a total of 523 trees have been inspected with no signs of ALB infestations.

Tree treatments in the Jersey City ALB quarantine are slated to begin April 25 with approximately 900 trees to be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid. Program officials are sending letters to residents to inform them of the upcoming treatments.

Starting next week (April 11-15) the New Jersey Department of Agriculture will be sending letters to residents in Linden who will be having trees removed from their property. Additionally Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB New Jersey Program Director, and Carl Schulze, Director, Division of Plant Industry, New Jersey Department of Agriculture, will appear on the city's cable access TV station to talk about the ALB Program and to seek the public's continued support in the efforts to eradicate this destructive pest from New Jersey.

During the 80th Annual Eastern Plant Board Meeting, held April 4-7, in Egg Harbor Township, NJ, ALB presentations were made by Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB NJ Program Director, Carl Schulze and Jeff Beach, with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, and Bob Mungari, with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. An ALB display and assorted giveaway items were provided at the meeting.

On April 7, Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB NJ Program Director, and Tom Denholm, New Jersey Department of Agriculture ALB NJ Program Co-Director, provided a tour of the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area to two Vermont State Plant Regulatory Officers who were attending the Eastern Plant Board Meeting. The Vermont officials were very impressed with the program's operations to eradicate the ALB from New Jersey.